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Public Health

Opening of a hospital at Amaravathi, Guntur district.

* 1595 Q.—Mr. P. ANJANEYULU : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether there were any memorials or other representations from the people of Amaravathi and the neighbourhood in the Guntur district for opening a hospital there ;

(b) why it has not been opened ; and

(c) what orders the Government have passed on the subject?

A.—(a) The Government have not received any memorial or other representations from the people of Amaravathi in regard to the opening of a hospital at Amaravathi.

(b) & (c) The questions do not arise.

Need for medical relief at Lalpet and Mannargudi, Chidambaram taluk.

* 1596 Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that there is not even one dispensary at Lalpet, a big Muslim centre in Chidambaram taluk ;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is no qualified lady assistant or qualified midwife attached even to the nearest hospital at Mannargudi, Chidambaram taluk ; and

(c) whether there is any proposal before the Government or the taluk board of Chidambaram to provide medical relief to the ryots and the female population at Lalpet?

A.—(a) The Government have no information.

(b) There is no lady doctor in the hospital at Mannargudi. The Government have no information regarding the midwife.

(c) The Government have no proposal before them for providing medical relief to the ryots and the female population at Lalpet nor have they information as to whether any such proposal is under the consideration of the Chidambaram Taluk Board.

Free distribution of quinine in 1929–30.

* 1597 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state, with reference to question No 423 answered on 9th October 1928 regarding free distribution of quinine, to what areas the free distribution of quinine will be extended in 1929–30?

A.—The question of extending the scheme of free distribution of quinine to other specially malarious tracts has to be considered after the results of the working of the scheme already sanctioned are known.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I enquire what the latest report is on the success of the scheme?"

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The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" The scheme has been in working order from November only and so I do not think it will be time to report on the results of the experiment."

Mr. K. R. KARANT :—" May I ask whether the hon. the Minister is aware that the scheme has really not begun to work, at any rate in my district ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" I am not sure of that, nor am I aware of that."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether the Government have taken any steps for anti-malarial operations besides free distribution of quinine."

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" A special officer has been appointed to suggest the necessary measures and they are being taken on hand in co-operation with the local bodies."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" Is the hon. the Minister aware that in certain districts the malarial season is practically over now and therefore reports may be called for from those districts ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" If the hon. Member's suggestion is that no free distribution of quinine is necessary hereafter, I may say that the people who are entrusted with it will not distribute it."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" Having regard to the fact admitted by the hon. the Minister yesterday that malaria is raging in certain . . ."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member has no right to put forth arguments at this stage."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" I am not arguing, Sir. May I ask whether he does not consider it necessary to extend the experiment to the taluks where malaria is prevalent ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" If the Government are satisfied with the result of the experiment that free distribution of quinine would curb the disease, it will be extended to all malarial places."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I ask whether there is any doubt about the curative powers of quinine in malarial cases ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" The question is whether free distribution of quinine will be really effective. That is the experiment now being made."

Mr. K. R. KARANT :—" May I enquire whether quinine is given as a preventive or as a curative ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" That is asking for an opinion "

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" My question was whether the Minister for Public Health is prepared to call for reports now so that he may decide whether to extend the scheme or not."

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" The hon. Member's question was that the malarial season being over now, whether quinine distribution could not be stopped."

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Mr. K. R. KARANT :—" Are the instructions of Government to distribute quinine free as a preventive or only as a curative ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" I do not quite understand the suggestion of the hon. Member. If he wants that quinine ought to be distributed free to every man so as to prevent people catching malaria, that would be preventive distribution. In places where there is malaria, people are also entitled to get a free distribution as a preventive measure also."

Mr. H. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know from the hon. the Minister whether he has ordered stopping the distribution of quinine in places where the malarial season is over ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" The Government have not issued any such instructions. But I am sure when the malarial season is over nobody would ask for quinine and nobody would issue it."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Has any budget provision been made for anti-malarial operations ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" Yes."

Acquisition of site for the Government Headquarters Hospital at Calicut.

* 1598 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : With reference to question No. 510 answered on 11th October 1928 regarding the acquisition of site for the Government Headquarters Hospital at Calicut, will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state what action Government have taken on the report of the Committee as to the acquisition of site for the Government Headquarters Hospital at Calicut ?

A.—The matter is still under the consideration of the Government.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I ask whether the Government have decided to give up the idea of acquiring the Mission site for the Government Headquarters Hospital at Calicut ? "

The hon Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" It is too early to answer that question."

Registration

Supply of Registration Gazette to Members of the Legislative Council.

* 1599 Q.—Mr. K. R. KARANT : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the *Registration Gazette* is not supplied to the Members of this Council even if they ask for it ; and

(b) if so, for what reasons ?

A.—(a) & (b) The *Registration Gazette* is intended for circulation among the officers of the department and is not given to anybody else.

Mr. K. R. KARANT :—" May I know whether the cost of this *Registration Gazette* comes from public funds or only from the officers of the department ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" From public funds."

Mr. K. R. KARANT :—" Then may I ask whether it contains any confidential information so that it should not be supplied to the hon. Members ? "